

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held July 15, 2021, Via Teleconference. Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:02 p.m.

Staff Present

Oluremi Dean, Acting Executive Director
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III
Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator
Monica Wright, Office Secretary III

Present Members

Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP, Vice Chair
Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole, AUD
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD
Ms. Valerie Hooper, Consumer
Mr. Kim Keller, HAD
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD
Ms. Ellen Stein, CON
Mr. James Sciabarrasi, HAD
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD
Dr. Anita Qureshi, AUD
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD

Visitors

Absent Members

Ms. Carolyn Stine, Board Chair
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP

Agenda Review and Approval

Mr. Richard Brisbane made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for June 17, 2021

Mr. Richard Brisbane made a motion to approve minutes. Dr. Anita Quersha seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulatory Review-Mrs. Oluremi Dean Acting Executive Director

2022AUD/HAD/SLP/MT Bill- In May, the Board submitted the concept paper for our 2022 bill. The bill addresses adding Audiology Assistants and Music Therapists to sections of our statutes that they were excluded from. The bill will clarify the requirements for a quorum, which will exclude speech-language pathology assistants and audiology assistants since we do not have members of those professions as members of the Board. The Board decided to not add assistants as members to the Board at this time, but may do so in the future. The bill also clarifies the requirements for when an applicant will be able to start actively practicing, which would be once their completed application has been granted preliminary approval by the licensing coordinator and pending before the Board. Finally, the bill will clarify that the Board will recognize a Music Therapist rehabilitation committee versus a subcommittee, since Music Therapists will now be active Board members and will be fully regulated by the Board. Dr. Anita Quersha made a motion to approve the 2022 bill as written. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regulations Draft-cleanup/addition of Audiology Assistants/Music Therapists- All amendments voted on at the last Board meeting have been added to the latest version of the regulations proposal. We are now focusing on the Audiologist Assistants' and the Music Therapists' scope of practice. Mrs. Dean stated that she has reached out to the Maryland Music Task Force, the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) and has had conversations with each organization discussing recommendations for a scope of practice. With the assistance from our stakeholders, the Board will be able to draft the scope of practice for MT's and AA's.

Board Chair Report- Dr. Tinita Kearney, Vice Chair

Dr. Kearney welcomed our new Board members, Dr. Anita Quershi and Ms. Valerie Hooper.

Board Counsel report-NONE

Executive Director's Report-Mrs. Oluremi Dean

Mrs. Dean reported that the website freeze is now over. Our website has been switched over to a new modern format. However, the website did not update to the latest version of our webpage, which means that changes made after March 2021 were not migrated to the new website. Therefore, Ms. Dean stated that she will have to go back through each page of the website to make edits and that she has begun making those edits to the most frequently used pages first. Mrs. Dean also stated to the Board that we can now have in-person Board meetings. The Board decided to have one in-person Board meeting per quarter with all others remaining as virtual meetings. Mrs. Dean also discussed the need for a contingency plan for applicants who apply online and whose originals are lost in transit to the Board. Mrs. Dean suggested a notarized photo be sent as a replacement. Dr. Kearney suggested a notarized letter be sent as a replacement. Mr. Richard Brisbane made the motion to accept a notarized letter as a contingency if the original application is lost. Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean

As of June our budget is \$430, 433.01.

License Coordinator Update-Ms. Zoann Mouzone

Ms. Mouzone reported as of July 2021 there is a total of 5,462 active licensees. That includes all SLP's, AUD's, HAD's limited and full. For 2020 license renewals there were a total of 2,162 licenses issued and mailed out. There are 269 non-renewed which includes AUD's and SLP's and Assistants. The total number of applications approved for July was 112. The total number of licenses for the 2021 renewal is 2,165 which include AUD's, SLP's and Assistants. For the 2021 renewal there are a total of 96 HAD's renewed and 18 nonrenewal HAD's.

Review and Approval for Licensee

Ms. Anita Quershi made a motion to approve all applications listed on the Board approval list. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Review for Committee List of CEU'S for Board Approval

Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole made a motion to approve all CEU courses on the list. Mr. Richard Brisbane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Regular Session Minutes
July 15, 2021
Page 3

Correspondence & F.Y.I
NONE

Next Board Meeting- August 19, 2021

Adjournment

Dr. Stacey Samuels-Cole made a motion to adjourn the regular session Board meeting. Dr. Tam Nguyen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Tinita Kearny, SLP,
Board Vice-Chair